

## APPENDIX G.

CHAPTER XII OF ASSISTANT COLLECTORS' MANUAL, PART II,  
REVISED TO 1937 BY THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,  
NORTHERN CIRCLE.

## FORESTS.

## I. GENERAL.

1. G. N., The Collector, as the Executive head of the district, is responsible  
No. 51-D, for forest administration in the district except in matters relating  
dated purely to technical matters, and the Divisional Forest Officer is the  
14th Assistant to the Collector and subject to his orders. Generally  
August speaking, Revenue officers are not to interfere with Forest Officers in  
1922, their professional work, i.e., the conservation and exploitation of the  
amended forests, but are to keep a watchful eye over all forest operations  
by Notifi- affecting the local supply of forest produce and the local privileges  
cation exercised by the people. All orders affecting local supply, including  
No. 51-D, grass, grazing and the rights and privileges of the people in or in  
dated 5th respect of forest are to be issued by the Divisional Forest Officer  
December after approval by the Collector.  
1922.

2. Stand- The Assistant Collector should remember that it is most important  
ing that there should be unanimity of feeling and action between Revenue  
Orders, and Forest Officers, and that it is the duty of every Revenue Officer  
Revenue to give every possible assistance to the Divisional Forest Officer  
Depart- in the protection of Government forests against theft or injury.  
ment, If possible the Assistant Collector should arrange to camp for a spell  
pages 481- with the Divisional Forest Officer in order to get an idea of what the  
489. latter does and what forest administration involves, and to realise  
the importance of the proper conservation of forests as a national  
asset. Forests not only provide timber, fuel and grazing but also  
help to prevent soil erosion and by checking run off of rain retain  
water in the soil so that the water level in wells is kept up.

## II. CLASSIFICATION OF FORESTS.

The notified forests in the Bombay Presidency are classed into  
(a) "Reserved" and (b) "Protected" forests. The distinction  
between "Reserved" and "Protected" forests is that, in the former  
there are few or no rights of user and, therefore, it is possible to  
prohibit the exercise of all such rights, except those specially defined,  
while in "Protected" forests there are established and acknowledged  
rights of user, and the exercise of these is permitted subject only to  
such restrictions as may be found necessary to impose in the interests

of the holders and of future generations. Broadly speaking, in a reserved forest everything is an offence that is not permitted, while, in a protected forest nothing is an offence that is not prohibited.

Normally Reserved forest is to be closed to all privileges and 3. Forest rigorously preserved by provisions of law. Much of it is included Act, in "Working Plans" and is only thrown open to the exercise of section 26. privileges in accordance with settlements or other express orders of Government. It should be impressed on the Public that the necessary restrictions are in the interests of the people and posterity and are not merely arbitrary.

Forests, whether Reserved Forest or Protected Forests, are again divided into 3 classes according to their nature, viz.:—

- (1) Forest proper.
- (2) Fuel and fodder reserves.
- (3) Pasture reserves.

This tripartite classification does not affect the legal status of 4. G. R., the forests, and there is no difficulty in taking land out of one class No. 9534 and including it in another when it is desirable to do so.

of 28th  
November  
1896.

Chapter III of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, enables the Provincial 5. Forest Government to assign to the village community the rights of Govern- Act, ment to or over any land which has been constituted as a reserved section 28. forest. Forests so assigned are called "Village forests".

### III. FOREST PROPER.

Forest proper (except a few square miles in the Ratnagiri District) is under the management and control of the Forest Department which works it in accordance with sanctioned working plans. A certain number (varying with the privileges accorded in each District) of the compartments or coupes in each forest block, or felling Series, may be "closed" to the exercise of grazing and other privileges for a number of years after exploitation, to assist protection of the new growth, in accordance with the scheme of the sanctioned Working Plan, which is so designed as always to leave "open" a reasonable proportion of forest so situated as to satisfy the needs of the adjacent villagers as regards grazing and other sanctioned privileges.

In the "closed" compartments, no grazing is allowed, nor is the exercise of any other forest privilege permitted except occasionally the cutting and removal of grass where such a course is considered advisable. In the "open" areas grazing and the exercise of other forest privileges are permitted subject to the rules in force in the locality.

*Forest rights.*—At the time of Settlement, the Forest Settlement Officer enquires into all rights claimed in or over the land which it is proposed to include in forest, and when he admits a claim over any land he proceeds either—

(i) to exclude that land from the forest; (ii) to arrange with the owner for the surrender of the rights; (iii) to acquire the land or (iv) to commute the rights. The result is that few private rights now exist in or over forests. Such rights as do exist are chiefly rights of way or to water which it has been found advisable to allow to continue. The "Forest Register" contains a statement of all Forest Rights.

*Forest Privileges.*—These are granted as a matter of favour and not as a matter of right, and vary from district to district. All forest privileges sanctioned by Government are, at the pleasure of Government, liable at any time to modification, curtailment or discontinuance, and the exercise of such privileges is subject to revision whenever Government may consider such a course necessary. Where serious neglect by a village of its responsibilities improved to the satisfaction of the Divisional Forest Officer and the Collector, communal punishment comprising withdrawal or privileges as

7. G. R., Government, liable at any time to modification, curtailment or discontinuance, and the exercise of such privileges is subject to revision whenever Government may consider such a course necessary. Where serious neglect by a village of its responsibilities improved to the satisfaction of the Divisional Forest Officer and the Collector, communal punishment comprising withdrawal or privileges as
8. G. R., a temporary measure may, at the instance of these officers jointly and with the approval of the Commissioner, be inflicted on the village concerned, where a warning issued in the matter has had no effect.
- R. D., No. 8654/24, dated 29th July 1932.
- Forest privileges include :—

- (1) Grazing on the payment of a fee, or free of charge.
- (2) The cutting or collection of bamboos, deadwood, brush-wood thorns, leaves and grass for home consumption.
- (3) The cutting of inferior species for specified purposes.
- (4) Free grants of timber for specified purposes.
- (5) The collection of specified fruits, flowers and minor produce.
- (6) The removal of earth and stone.

The extent to which these privileges are allowed varies greatly. *Vide* in different localities. In Kanara, Dharwar, Belgaum, Khandesh, Standing Kolaba and Thana and part of Nasik special rules have been Orders, sanctioned under which the people enjoy very considerable privileges, R. D., while in other tracts they are restricted to the cutting of grass and twigs for *rah* (seed beds) and the collection of deadwood for the gatherer's own *bona fide* use. The Assistant Collector should ascertain exactly what rules are in force in his charge regulating the exercise of forest privileges. This may be seen from the Forest Settlement Report of each taluka and the published Forest Privilege Code for the district, also from the Bombay Forest Manual, Vol. II. Regarding free grants of timber for various purposes see Manual of Financial Powers, item 53. pp. 583-615.

#### IV. FUEL AND FODDER RESERVES.

"Fuel reserves" consist chiefly of babul groves on the banks of rivers or areas isolated amongst occupied land and mainly devoted to the growth of fuel. Mixed "Fuel and Fodder reserves" are lands in which, while the yield of grass is improved, the growth of fodder other than grass (e.g., bushes and trees edible by cattle) is also promoted and which must, for the attainment of this object, be (except in years of great drought) absolutely closed against grazing, the fodder being cut and collected. The produce of all these reserves must be devoted primarily to the supply of local wants at reasonable rates, and only the surplus after these wants are fully met should be exported.

#### V. PASTURES.

By "pastures" are meant grazing lands from which cattle, including sheep and goats, are not to be otherwise than temporarily excluded, but which are to be brought under a definite system of management. Pastures comprise about 23 per cent. of the total forest area. Nearly three-fourths of these pasture areas are in charge of the Revenue Department and the rest (chiefly in Kanara) is in charge of the Forest Department. In Thana the so-called pastures actually contain rich tree growth in a large proportion of the area, and are termed "Gurcharans". These "Gurcharans", which are protected Forest, are at present under the management of the Revenue Department according to the provisions of the Thana Woodland Code, though the Forest Department is concerned with the felling for commercial purposes of the teak and also a proportion of the injaili species, all the proceeds of such fellings being credited to that Department.

10. G. R.,  
R. D.,  
No. 9811,  
dated 10th,  
July 1929.

11. G. R., No. 1476 of 24th February 1904 and G. R., No. 2187 of 31st March 1901. There are often demands for the disforestation of pasture forest in order that it may be given out for cultivation. But it is, however, pointed out that it is often economically better to keep land as pasture, than to give it out for cultivation. The pasture forests of the Deccan are full of the remains of deserted villages where cultivation has failed, and it is no kindness to give a cultivator land which it is impossible to work profitably. Besides an adequate number of cattle are necessary for the cultivation of the other lands of a village, and pasture for the village cattle is usually more valuable to the community than a poor holding for a single cultivator. (This does not necessarily apply to the system of Woodland plots in the Thana "Gurcharans".)
12. G. R., R. D., No. 366/33, dated 26th August 1933.

## VI. GRAZING.

13. G. R., R. D., No. 4217, dated 17th May 1928. For the purpose of the exercise of the grazing privilege cattle are classified into (i) Village cattle and (ii) Non-village cattle. The latter term includes cattle belonging to professional graziers. "Village Cattle" are again classified into (a) village cattle of forest villages (i.e., villages which have contributed land to forest) and (b) village cattle of non-forest villages. The order in which the various kinds of cattle are admitted to graze and other regulations concerning the privilege are given in the grazing rules embodied in the Bombay Forest Manual, Volume II.

Grazing is prohibited in closed areas in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Settlement or Working plan or by the executive orders of the Collector, but no area can be closed within a quarter of a mile of a village site.

The Collector in consultation with the Divisional Forest Officer may fix the number of cattle to be admitted to graze in any particular area of open forest. Cattle excluded from a forest as being in excess of the maximum number so fixed shall, as far as possible, be provided with grazing ground elsewhere.

Increasing attention is being given to the management of grazing grounds as rotational grazing and limitation of numbers of cattle are found to produce more and better grass and to improve the cattle. Moreover over-grazed areas lead to erosion and sinking of the sub-soil water level, and are therefore a menace to the general community. In areas specially allotted for cheap grazing goats may, where customary, be admitted when accompanying flocks of

sheep in the proportion of one goat only to every 50 sheep. Where possible separate areas shall be allotted to sheep and goats as grazing by these animals, especially the latter is inimical to tree growth.

Camels, elephants and swine are absolutely prohibited from grazing in forest.

All villages in the Kanara District are considered to be forest villages for the purpose of the grazing rules.

Village cattle of villages situated near the boundary line of two districts may, with the permission of the Collector and the Conservator, graze in certain specified areas of the adjoining district.

In seasons of drought the Commissioner may relax the grazing rules to such extent as may be necessary.